

Everybody's
Backyard!



ParkWays

Volume 7, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Spring/ Summer 2001

The Greening of Cincinnati — A City Within a Park

The next time you find yourself traveling through Cincinnati's streets and thoroughfares, take a moment to notice your immediate surroundings. Chances are, if you're about to enter or exit an interstate, pass a median or neighborhood walkway, you'll be delighted by the beautiful landscaping that punctuates so many public spaces throughout our city. That's because the Cincinnati Park Board has made an ongoing commitment to fulfill an array of initiatives conceived to keep our city green and beautiful.

"Our many green initiatives are really what the Park Board is all about," said Doug Fraser, Senior Landscape Architect of Cincinnati Parks. "When we crafted the Parks' master plan in 1992, we looked at the entire city as if it was an expansive parkland in which a beautiful city happened to have been built. Then we could move forward with the work of assessing all the city green-spaces, setting priorities and then rolling up our sleeves and getting the job done."

The Parks' green initiatives are seasonless. Dave Gamstetter, Director of Natural Resource Management for the Parks, oversees the street tree program. By working with local businesses, community groups and the city, the street tree program has resulted in the planting of thousands of trees throughout Cincinnati's urban areas. Landscape and horticultural displays are proliferating in

cont. on page 3

Willkommen! Park Board Staff Travels to Munich

December 6, 2000. Six members of the Cincinnati Park Board's professional staff depart for an 8-day journey to Munich, Germany. Their goal: To further the already remarkable professional exchange between the two communities—both equally renowned for the outstanding beauty of their parks and for the excellence of their management standards.

The staff trip coincided with the presentation of the Heim und Handwerk Show (Home and Craft) in Munich. The exhibition, which shines a spotlight on a foreign city every year, chose Cincinnati as its featured city for the 2000 event.

Though the delegation savored several opportunities to visit some impressive

sites of interest, the most significant work took place at the Hauptabteilung Gartenbau (Headquarters of Parks) with members of the Munich Park Board. There, the groups held discussions about best professional practices in the areas of parks planning, green initiatives, playground safety, professional development and volunteerism.

Dave Gamstetter, Manager of Natural Resources for Cincinnati Parks, discussed the benefits of trees and the development of tree canopies in urban environments. Gerald R. Checco, Superintendent of Operations and Land Management, prepared a seminar on the use of geographical information systems in the management of parks and green-spaces. The Munich Park Board will now be able to integrate these innova-

tive concepts into their existing management strategies.



Horst Haffner, City of Munich's Director of Public Works, makes a special presentation to Willie Carden, Director of Parks.

"We have had a strong and very rewarding professional relationship with the people of Munich for over 10 years," said Checco.

"Their deep commitment to

our relationship is always evident—and will be further strengthened by their generous donation of the Pavilion to the new Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park to be established in downtown Cincinnati. The pavilion will be a true gift of friendship from across the ocean. They are our true partners in every sense of the word."

Monday, December 11, 2000. The delegation returns to Cincinnati —energized by their experiences and the fresh ideas they will eagerly bring to our Cincinnati Parks.



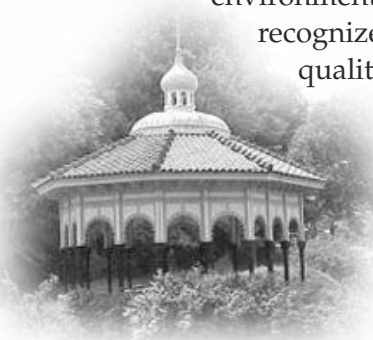
Parks staff in Munich

And Four Stars are Awarded to ... Cincinnati Parks!

The Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute recently awarded Cincinnati Parks a 4-star rating—making our parks one of three park systems nationwide to be given the distinction.

The Urban Land Institute, an organization dedicated to providing responsible leadership in the use of land in order to enhance the total

environment,
recognizes quality



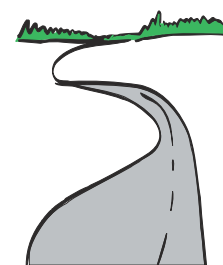
park systems nationwide that add true value to their communities. Cincinnati Parks earned its high rating by maintaining a large percentage of available land as greenspace, by making a parks experience convenient and accessible to all, and through the level of public funding committed to City parks and recreation sites. In addition, the Greater Cincinnati community has stepped forward in support of its parks. Usage as well as financial support of Cincinnati Parks has always been impressive and continues to flourish.



A beautiful Eden Park overlook

Our beautiful Cincinnati Parks are next door, across the street, down the block, around the corner—and now they've become the envy of the entire country! The Cincinnati Park Board is delighted to share this achievement with all who've ever enjoyed a canopy of street trees offering shade in the summer to the snow-covered nature trail in winter. Thanks for making the welfare and beauty of Cincinnati Parks a priority!

Trivia



Trails

One of the first municipal reforestation projects in the United States was in which Cincinnati park?

(Answer on page 4.)



Beauty of Parks to Burgeon through Fleischmann Family Gift

Step into Fleischmann Gardens in Avondale and you’ve suddenly entered a world of beautifully landscaped gardens, quaint stone walkways and majestic trees—seemingly miles from the bustle of city life that beats all around this breathtaking 4-acre park. Yet, were it not for the foresight and generosity of the heirs of a prominent Cincinnati businessman over 75 years ago, this oasis of serenity (which features one of the state’s largest Ginkgo trees) would not have been preserved for the generations.

When the land was given to the people of Cincinnati in 1925 by the heirs of Charles Fleischmann, founder of the Fleischmann Yeast Company, the family also provided an endowment gift to be used to maintain the park—so its upkeep would not become a burden on the city.

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation can assist you in determining how you can leave your special legacy to Cincinnati Parks. Executive Director Ron Molen can be reached by calling 357-2619, or e-mailing ron.molen@rcc.org.

ple of greater Cincinnati, the Fleischmann heirs suggested the Park Board establish a new matching grant fund. This initiative is meant to encourage others to think about what kind of legacy they might leave for those yet to come. It sets an example of how a single gift might generate other dollars to bring the beauty of parks into more communities

than ever before. An enhanced quality of life can be expected from all expressions of support for Cincinnati Parks. Now, with the Fleischmann family matching grant fund, more dollars than ever will be raised for parks in communities that have limited financial resources. Soon, these communities will be able to transform their own passions for the establishment and maintenance of beautiful parks into realities—right in their own neighborhoods!

A Butterfly Preview



Sneak a Peek at the Butterflies!

Become one of the first in Cincinnati to witness the amazing elegance of butterflies from around the world at the 2001 Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show! Sneak a peek at the Butterfly Preview on Thursday, May 10th at Krohn Conservatory from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. In addition to the breathtaking beauty of Krohn Conservatory, the kids will enjoy pizza and soft drinks, face painting, clowns, balloons, and a newly commissioned performance by Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre. Adults can enjoy appetizers, a cash bar, and a silent auction.

The exhibit will open to the public on Friday, May 11. If you have any questions regarding the preview, call Lee Anne Herbst at 513/357-2619.

Yes, I want to Sneak a Peek at the Butterflies!

Please mark a sponsorship:

☐ **Monarch (\$250)** Includes admission for 2 adults and 2 children. A portion of your donation provides transportation for a school class to visit the Krohn Conservatory.

☐ **Butterfly (\$125)** Includes admission for 2 adults and up to 2 children. A portion of your donation sponsors a group of 10 school children to attend a nature program.

☐ **Cocoon (\$75)** Includes admission for 2 adults and up to 2 children.

☐ **Caterpillar (\$50)** Includes admission for 1 adult and up to 2 children.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Mail form to: Cincinnati Parks Foundation, 950 Eden Park Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

*All tickets will be held at the door.
** Any amount over \$10 per person is tax deductible.

A Return to Splendor

The Donald Spencer Overlook: A Campaign to Restore One of Cincinnati’s Most Scenic Landmarks

Stroll across the Donald Spencer Overlook and the breathtaking beauty of a city born on the banks of the majestic Ohio River overtakes the senses. From this storied place—where the mighty Ohio turns from eastern Cincinnati and flows towards downtown—a panoramic view of the northern shore of Kentucky can be savored.

From the Overlook, one can glimpse the past and be inspired by a vision for the future.

It is precisely the future—and its limitless possibilities— that has inspired a campaign to restore the Donald Spencer Overlook—named for one of the founding members of the "Friends of Cincinnati Parks". Donald Spencer, past president of the Cincinnati Association of Real Estate Brokers, is a man whose entire life has been guided by a

genuine love of the only community he has ever called home.

Because the Spencer Overlook has shown alarming signs of deterioration, a campaign to restore the overlook has been established, chaired by C. Brewster Rhoads and Edgar L. Smith, Jr. (Both are trustees of the

To contribute to the campaign to restore one of Cincinnati’s most scenic landmarks, please contact Ron Molen at the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, 357-2619; or e-mail Ron at ron.molen@rcc.org.

Foundation.) Contributions to this effort will be directed towards reconstruction of the crumbling retaining wall and sidewalk, expansion of green areas and planting spaces along pedestrian walks, reconfiguration and expansion of parking spaces, and the purchase of new site fur-

nishings including benches, tables and interpretative signage.

The total cost for the Donald Spencer Overlook restoration is estimated to be \$315,000. Proposed funding will be derived from both private funds (\$115,00) and public matching funds (\$200,000).



Retaining wall falling away at the Donald Spencer overlook

Even as construction documents are being prepared, the Campaign for the Restoration of the Donald Spencer Overlook has already begun. The goal is to secure all private contributions by this spring so that construction can commence this summer.



Ron Molen, Executive Director Cincinnati Parks Foundation

We all share a sense of pride in being recognized as one of the three best urban park systems in the country. Cincinnati’s Park System is truly second to none.

However, much of what we have is due to the foresight and generosity of previous generations. Close to 50% of our park property has been donated. In addition, many of these gifts came with endowments so new parks would not diminish the city’s budget. They have left us a Legacy of Parks and Greenspace

for all generations to enjoy now into the future. This legacy does not have to stop with the previous generations. Planned giving is one way many have chosen to do even more for our parks and the people that use them. By leaving a legacy in *cont. on page 4*

Become a Member

Join the “Friends of Cincinnati Parks” and help the Cincinnati Parks Foundation conserve, manage, sustain and enhance the park’s natural and cultural resources, as well as public green space. You will be kept informed of park events and your membership card will entitle you to a 10% discount at the Krohn Conservatory Gift Shop! For more information, please visit www.cinci-parks.org or call 513.357.2621.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

I would like to support the Parks with the following membership:

☐ **Friend (\$25)** ☐ **Family (\$35)** ☐ **Sponsor (\$50)** ☐ **Patron (\$100)** ☐ **Partner (\$250)**

☐ **I do not want to become a member, but would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.**

Mail to: Friends of Cincinnati Parks
950 Eden Park Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

☐ Check enclosed (*payable to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation*)

☐ Bill me later

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Park Events

A Magical World of Butterflies May 11 - June 24 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Krohn Conservatory
Green-Up Day May 19 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Various parks (citywide effort)
Pooch Parade & Picnic May 19 12:00 p.m. French Park
Acoustic Lunch Tuesdays, June 5 - August 28 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Piatt Park
Family Fun Fridays June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 7:00 p.m. Rapid Run Park
Juneteenth June 16 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Eden Park (Mirror Lake & Seasongood Pavilion)
Ault Park Dances June 21, July 19, August 16 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Ault Park Pavilion
Hood Tour with Kathy Wade June 23 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Eden Park (Seasongood Pavilion)
Children’s Talent Showcase June 24 3:00 p.m. Eden Park (Seasongood Pavilion)
Edensong Concert Series July 6, 13, 20, 27 7:30 p.m. Eden Park (Seasongood Pavilion)
Big Band Concerts 7:30 p.m. July 11 Rapid Run Park July 28 Mt. Echo Park August 15 Stanbery Park
Ault Park Independence Day Celebration July 4 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (Fireworks at 10:00 p.m.) Ault Park
Seasongood Sunset Concert August 4 7:30 p.m. Eden Park (Seasongood Pavilion)

Nature Notes



Exotic Butterflies To Take Flight at the Krohn Conservatory!

By Andrea Schepman

Some of the world’s most exotic butterfly species are on their way to the Krohn Conservatory for the 2001 Butterfly Show, "A Magical World of Butterflies". The event, presented by the Cincinnati Park Board with support from the LAZARUS Fund of the Federated Foundation, will allow visitors to take an uncommon look at several breeds which have rarely been seen on display in the U.S.

Take A Closer Look at the Birdwing Butterfly

Among the most magnificent of the butterfly breeds coming to this year’s Butterfly Show is the Birdwing, a breed so named because of its immense wingspan—a full seven inches!

Birdwing butterflies are not only large, they are visually stunning. Their deep black and bright yellow pattern alerts predators that it will not be a tasty treat! The Troides helena is generally found in jungle climates such as Malaysia and

Singapore—where it is a protected species because of its scarcity and the high value placed upon it by collectors.

The Trogonoptera brookiana Birdwing butterfly (Rajah Brooke’s Birdwing), which will also be featured at the show, is found in the tropical regions of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Rajah Brooke’s Birdwing has slender wings which makes it an excellent flier. Typically, the male prefers to rest near streams and creeks while the female prefers higher ground and looks for flowering trees on which to alight. Another interesting note: As caterpillars, most birdwing species of the butterfly are poisonous to predators, as they feed on the leaves of poisonous aristolochiaceae plants!

But wait! There’s more!

In addition to the Birdwing, more than 30 other exotic butterfly species will also be featured at the show. They include exotic varieties from Africa, Malaysia, and Central America. North American natives such as the White Peacock, Monarch, Queen, Zebra Swallowtail, American Painted Lady and the Red Admiral will also be darting in and out of the tropical botanicals. The exotic varieties will be showcased in magnificent landscaped gazebos. Hundreds of butterflies will be released each week of the show. The North American butterflies

Andrea Schepman is the Administrative Specialist at The Krohn Conservatory.

A Magical World of Butterflies
The Krohn Conservatory

Dates: May 11-June 24

Hours: Monday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5 for adults/ \$3 for children ages 5-17, four and under are free. (Free admission to Mothers on Mother’s Day and Fathers on Father’s Day compliments of the LAZARUS Fund of the Federated Foundation)

Special show events:

A Magical World of Butterflies
April 21, 11:00 a.m.
Joseph-Beth Kids

Butterfly Memorials and Special Non-denominational Service to Honor Loved Ones
May 27, 1:00 p.m.
Krohn Conservatory

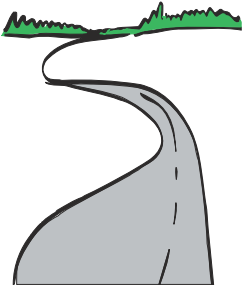
How to Create a Magical World of Butterflies in Your Backyard
June 2, 1:00 p.m.
Joseph-Beth Booksellers

For more information, call (513) 421-5707 or visit www.cinci-parks.org.

in the show will fly free—affording visitors unobstructed views of these breathtaking butterflies!



Trivia



Trails

Do you know where to find “Bald Hill” and how it got its name?

(Answer on page 4.)

Green, cont. from page 1

unexpected places; for example, the I-71/Eden Park Drive interchange and at Torrence and Taft at Columbia Parkway.

Because the value of community participation in these efforts can not be minimized, volunteer opportunities abound! For example, Green-Up Day in the springtime provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in the beautification of their city by planting and weeding in designated public spaces.

"People continue to respond

to the planting of flowers, trees and shrubs along our streets and highways," noted Gamstetter. "They have told us that it makes a real difference to them—brightening even dreary days. That is personally gratifying to me. Credit is due to outstanding citizen support, to the Ohio Department of Transportation with whom we work closely to beautify our highways and to the exceptional job done day after day by the Parks staff."

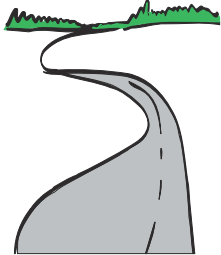
For information on how to volunteer for a Cincinnati Parks green initiative, contact Cindi Nugent,

Volunteer Coordinator at 321-6208; or e-mail at cindi.nugent@rcc.org.

Take a look at these beautifully landscaped greenspaces—courtesy of your Cincinnati Parks!

- Fifth Street medians at I-75
- Ft. Washington Way Platform Bridges
- I-471 medians
- Sunset from Queen City to Guerley
- Reading at Liberty
- I-71 N at Lytle Tunnel
- I-75 northbound at Western Hills viaduct
- I-75 northbound at Hopple

Trivia



Trails

Answers

pg. 1: Mt. Airy Forest! The area had been eroded with nearly treeless ridges and slopes from poor agricultural practices and unrestricted cattle grazing.

pg. 3: "Bald Hill" is located in Alms Park. It was originally cleared by the Indians to give a better view of the pioneer settlement, Columbia.




Molen, cont. from page 1

your will or through your estate, many remarkable things happen. We are able to continue to sustain and enhance the parks and programs we are all so proud of. In addition, others see what a single gift can generate and choose to leave their own legacies.

If you are interested in more information about making a planned gift to benefit parks, please contact the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.

What’s Going on in Your Backyard?



Willie Carden
Director of Parks

Cincinnati Park’s 1992 master plan, “Planting The Future” outlines a strategic plan for the conservation and growth of Cincinnati’s parks and green spaces. In response to the plan, park facilities have been renovated, acreage increased, funds for new parks secured, and programs and services expanded. These efforts address a core concept of the master plan—that

Cincinnati’s parks should be “everybody’s backyard”—free and beautiful places that belong to everyone and meet their diverse needs. Hiking, biking, scenic overlooks, spectacular architecture & sculptures, special events, bird watching, nature programs, floral displays, Krohn Conservatory, playgrounds, woodland trails, and much more await you. I encourage you to visit a Cincinnati Park this spring and discover “what’s going on in your backyard!”

Volunteer Harold Steadman Cares for Tecumseh Statue


Though Thornton Triangle is Cincinnati’s smallest park at just .01 acres, is an unmistakable landmark in Sayler Park. Its trademark statue of an eastern Woodlands Indian is meticulously cared for by Sayler Park resident Harold Steadman.

Harold has cleaned and beautified the area around the statue once or twice a week for four years! Using his own supplies, Harold maintains the landscaping,

keeping the shrubs trimmed and the grass mowed. He also clears the curbs of litter and paints the surrounding metal posts. A lifetime resident of Sayler Park, Mr. Steadman developed a fondness for the statue. “It’s the only Indian statue I’ve ever seen,” he explained. He wanted its appearance to reflect the pride of the Sayler Park community. Residing just a block from the statue’s home at Gracely and Thornton Avenue, he passes

by 2 or 3 times a day.

Formally known as the J. Fitzhugh Thornton Memorial, the statue has acquired the name “Tecumseh” from Sayler Park residents. It is a beloved community landmark that holds a special meaning for many, including volunteer Harold Steadman.



General Information:

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950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/352-4080 • 513/352-3380 (TTY)
513/352-4096 (fax)
www.cinci-parks.org

Cincinnati Parks Foundation
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/357-2619 • 513/352-4096 (fax)

Cincinnati Parks Volunteers
513/321-6208

Public Nature Programs
513/321-6070


Krohn Conservatory
513/352-4080

Reservations
Picnic areas, shelters, band-stands, and outdoor wedding areas: 513/357-2604

Alms, Ault, and Mt. Echo pavilions; French House; Mt. Airy lodges; Krohn Conservatory: 513/351-4777

Special Use Permits
513/357-2605

Information/Parks Visitor Center
513/352-4080



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If you have moved and have a change of address, or would like to be removed from the ParkWays mailing list, please contact Karen Ewing at Cincinnati Parks, 513-357-2619.

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